

gravel in parallel rows, and then covered over with gravel. See Kruger paragraph No. 36. See the first page of Maestro Pat. No. 6,612,777. So, installing the Kruger or other storm chambers do not present the same kinds of problems as does installing leaching chambers -- which are installed in narrow trenches carved into soil. There is no reason for storm chambers to be installed in other than straight rows, and thus to have any kind of adaptation for angling at the joint. Thus Kruger neither describes the claimed method nor suggests any problem much less solution.

Second, from Kruger (or other references cited), there is no disclosure of any differentiation to be made amongst chambers within a 4-8 foot range. And there is no disclosure of the anything special which would attend chambers shorter than 6 feet, in particular. Applicant describes how problems or limitations associated with chambers which are about 6 foot or greater in length were identified, and how it was discovered that they could be addressed by his method and shorter length chambers.

Third, there is no disclosure nor appreciation in the prior art that a chamber might be made ergonomically better, to help the installation process and reduce labor, despite widespread commercial use of leaching chambers.

While the definition of a leaching chamber in distinction to a storm chamber is well known, it is emphasized in the amended claims by now including that the sidewalls have a multiplicity of small perforations. Reference is made to the specification at the bottom of page 4.

Applicant submits that the claims 1, 7 and 12 ought to be allowed because there is no disclosure nor suggestion in the prior art of the concept of making leaching chambers short for improving their interconnectability or for increasing the capability of a string of chambers to run along a curved trench path. With further respect to claim 12, there was no prior art appreciation to make a chamber sufficiently short so that it can be grabbable by one person, when the chamber is being removed from a nested stack.


Claims 15 and 17 are for chambers having particular and unique combinations of features: The claimed features are those which characterize the unique chamber which is light on a per foot basis, has certain aspect ratios, and which is more flexible but therefore more difficult to un-nest and handle, so it thus has also specific short lengths. With reference to the invention and prior art data cited in the specification and Table 1, the chamber and associated method are novel and nonobvious, and the claims ought to be allowed.

Applicant has changed the dependencies of some of the claims, to improve the claims. Some of the dependent claims are preferred embodiments of their patentable parents, for instance claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 13, 16, 18-20, 24-25, and thus ought to be patentable by virtue of novelty from the parent.

Other dependent claims provide additive novelty to the parent over the prior art, for instance claims 4, 10, 21, 23, for the reasons cited just above.

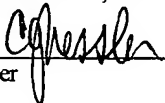
Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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